



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO

GOVERNOR

MIKE D. McDANIEL, Ph.D.

SECRETARY

February 22, 2007

Dear Laboratory Director,

This letter is to inform you that the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) and the Institute for National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation (INELA) have been combined into a single organization, the NELAC Institute (TNI). This change was approved by the respective Boards of Directors of NELAC and INELA, effective as of November 6, 2006. TNI represents the culmination of a process of growth and improvement that has evolved over a number of years.

As reflected in the new name, The NELAC Institute has combined the history of NELAC with the consensus process of INELA into a single organization. A description of the bylaws, committees, and programs of TNI can be found on the new TNI website, www.nelac-institute.org. Information that had previously been found on the respective websites for NELAC and INELA has been moved to this new home.

The first National meeting of TNI was held in Denver, Colorado, on January 29 - February 2, 2007. The continued partnership among federal, laboratory, and other stakeholders was very much in evidence during that meeting. The LELAP staff of LDEQ is committed to the continuing development of this new organization. The LELAP Supervisor and other LDEQ staff are active members of TNI's committees and Board of Directors, and are engaged in the support of ongoing TNI activities.

The TNI standards are those to which your laboratory will eventually be held. Regarding your laboratory's LELAP accreditation, the transition to TNI will be invisible. All accreditation requirements remain the same, and laboratories currently holding LELAP accreditation will continue to do so. The applicable state rule-making process will precede any change in the LDEQ LELAP laboratory accreditation requirements.

If you have any questions concerning TNI, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Melvin C. Mitchell, Sr., Administrator
Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accrediting Program

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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